

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6324

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, OCON, RP

SUBJECT: COPYRIGHT -- PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 400

REF: STATE 138632

1. ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON NEDA DIRGEN SICAT AUGUST 6 TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS UNDER PD 400 AND TO PROPOSE ALBERT VISIT PER REFTEL. WHILE TALK WITH SICAT WAS SOMEWHAT LATE IN TERMS RECEIPT REFTEL, IT WAS DELAYED UNTIL EMBASSY HAD IN HAND AT LEAST PARTIAL LIST OF TITLES LOCAL FIRMS HAD SOUGHT NATIONAL LIBRARY APPROVAL TO REPRINT (LIST POUCHED EA/PHL). PROPOSAL WAS MADE TO SICAT THAT ALBERT AND POSSIBLY OTHER PUBLISHER REPS VISIT PHILIPPINES IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER TO MEET WITH NEDA, NATIONAL LIBRARY AND EMBASSY REPS TO (A) REVIEW PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES THUS FAR UNDER PD 400 AND PREDECESSOR PD 255; AND (B) DISCUSS DEPOSIT AND REMITTANCE OF ROYALTIES DUE UNDER TERMS OF DECREE; (C) EXAMINE PROBLEMS SO FAR EXPERIENCED WITH TITLE APPROVAL PROCEDURES; AND (D) SEE WHETHER MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ADMINISTRATIVE/POLICING ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE DEVELOPED. SICAT READILY AGREED, NOTING THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY DURING FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER (TO ATTEND PHILIPPINE CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETINGS IN PARIS).

2. DURING DISCUSSION ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR NOTED THAT NATIONAL LIBRARY LIST OF REPRINT REQUESTS, EVEN THOUGH ALREADY MUCH OUT OF DATE, WAS QUITE LONG AND COMPREHENSIVE

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RESPECTING EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS. IT DID NOT CONTAIN,

HOWEVER, WHAT APPEARED FROM BOOKSTALL SAMPLINGS TO BE A BURGEONING LIST OF FICTION TITLES. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT LIST BE UPDATED, AND EMBASSY WILL BE PURSUING THIS WITH THE NATIONAL LIBRARY. ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR ALSO INDICATED TO SICAT THAT LISTS WOULD BE PROVIDED TO ALBERT SO THAT U.S. PUBLISHERS COULD DETERMINE WHICH TITLES HAD BEEN REQUESTED AND SPECIFY WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THEM. THIS STEP WOULD HELP TO SURFACE PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION DURING ALBERT VISIT.

3. COMMENT: SICAT WAS MORE RELAXED AND POSITIVE IN THIS DISCUSSION THAN ON ANY PRIOR OCCASION. HE OBVIOUSLY WAS A BIT SURPRISED AND PLEASED BY THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITY GENERATED BY PD 400, BUT HE WAS PREPARED TO SUBMIT THE REQUESTS TO CLOSE SCRUTINY BY U.S. PUBLISHERS. HE IS NOT BY THAT TOKEN HOOKED OR LANDED, AND PREPARATION FOR THE LABERT VISIT SHOULD BE DONE WITH CARE. FIRST, WE SHOULD GIVE SICAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A SET OF ALTERNATIVE DATES. SECOND, WE SHOULD HAVE IN HAND FOR MEETING WITH SICAT AS COMPLETE AN APPRAISAL AS POSSIBLE OF THE EXTENT OF APPROVED, OR CONVERSELY BOOTLEG REPRINTING. THIS WE HOPE CAN BE INITIATED WITH LIST BEING POUCHED TO EA/PHL, AND WE WILL SUPPLEMENT THE LIST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT DISCUSS VISIT WITH ALBERT AND PROVIDE EMBASSY POSSIBLE DATES WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.

SULLIVAN

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